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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,952	10/24/2001	J. David Rozzell JR.	47418/KMO/B583	1571

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EXAMINER

GITOMER, RALPH J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1651

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/039,952		ROZZELL, J. DAVID	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Ralph Gitomer		1651	

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Applicant's election without traverse of Group II, claims 18-25, in the reply filed on 9/30/04 is acknowledged. Please inform the examiner as to how this CIP application differs from the parent 09/702,421 application. And please update the specification regarding the status of related applications. No references were found in the file and are not in the parent file, so the nonpatent literature listed in the IDS was not considered.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Jones.

Jones (WO 00/28007) entitled "Chemically Modified Mutant Serine Hydrolases Show Improved Catalytic Activity and Chiral Selectivity" teaches in the abstract, mutant hydrolases that catalyze a transamidation. On page 24 Example 1 describes a modification of an enzyme that induces changes in catalytic activity. Kinetic assays of enzyme activity were performed to compare the mutant enzyme for changes on page 26. On page 27 Table 1 shows various mutants and their relative activities.

Claims 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by May.

May (Nature Biotech) entitled "Inverting Enantioselectivity by Directed Evolution of Hydantoinase for Improved Production of L-Methionine" teaches in the abstract, increasing the total activity of an enzyme by fivefold. On page 318 Fig. 1 shows an amine is removed and water added by the enzyme mediated pathway or the reverse in the other direction.

All of the features of the claims are taught by each of the above references for the same function as claimed.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of each of Jones and May in view of Muller.

The claim differs from each of Jones and May in that the product produced by the enzyme activity is determined by pH.

Muller (5,958,715) entitled "Method for Quantitative Measurement of an Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay" teaches in column 6, enzyme activity is determined by determining a change in pH.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to determine the product produced by the methods of each of Jones and May by determining pH because Muller teaches determining enzyme activity by determining pH. To select a known method of determining enzyme activity with the expected result to determine enzyme activity for any function would have been obvious in view of Muller. Determining a change in pH to detect a change in chemical composition is old.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 18-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Each of the following applies in all occurrences.

In claim 18 line 1, "the production of" lacks antecedent basis and may be intended to be "producing an". In claim 18 line 2, "the reductive" lacks antecedent basis. Claim 18 is directed to producing but lacks any reacting or recovering steps. Claim 18 is directed to a mutated enzyme but in what fashion or result the mutation is made is not seen in comparison with a not mutated enzyme. Claim 19 fails to further limit claim 18 from which it depends. Claim 20 which depends from claim 19 appears to be inconsistent where claim 18 from which claim 19 depends does not contain a dehydrogenase. Claim 21 is not understood where one would not likely provide an

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enzyme that does not exist. Further, it is directed to mutating an enzyme but does not set forth how it is mutated.

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Takashima (6,727,083) teaches mutant transaminase.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ralph Gitomer whose telephone number is (571) 272-0916. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Wityshyn can be reached on (571) 272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ralph Gitomer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1651

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